1871
(L.R.)

File No. 1 of 1871
Serial: No. 1-6

Sub:- Assessment of Kumari Lands.

G. R. S. 58]

Previous references.

~~7t~~ 1 of 1868

~~1 of 1878~~

19 .

(Land Revenue

File No. 1 of 1871

Serial Nos. 1 – 6

Later references.

L.R. 1 of 1878

7t 1 of 1880

7t 6 of 1890

7t 8 of 1901

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

Serial Nos. 1-6

Major—~~Part~~ B for Septr 1871

SUBJECT.

Assessment on Kumri Lands.

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1. To the Survey & Settlemen Comr. No. 352 of 22 June 1871 Enquires at what rates Kumri lands may be assessed as a temporary measure.

2. From the Survey and Settlement Comr. No. 680 of 5 July 71 — Reports against Kumri cultivation and proposes @ Rs. 1-8-0 per acre.

3. To the Secy. to the Govt. of India No 230 of 9 Aug 71 Forwards the Survey & Settlement Comr's ~~letter~~ Report.

GPB—5,000—22-10-10

4. From the Secy to the Govt of India – No. 121 & 9 Aug 91.
Sanctions Kumri under certain restrictions

5. To the Suppt. of Nuggur – No. 4587 & 30 Aug 91
Forwards a copy of the above letter together with certain copies of correspondence and a map. for information and guidance.

6. From the Secretary to the Govt of India, Agricultural Dept – No 274 & – Sept 91
Forwards a copy of letter No. 272/13 & 24 Septr 1891. addressed to the Secretaries to the Govts of Madras & Bombay requiring uniformity of action in regard to Kumri cultivation.

M.R.

No. 352 F. (17)

To
The Survey & Settlement Commr.

Sir,
I have the honor by desire of the Chief Commr., with reference to the proposed re-introduction of Kumri Cultivation on the Nagar Ghauts, to enquire if you can obligingly give any information or suggestions as to the rates that might be imposed on Kumri as compared with other kinds of cultivation as a temporary measure until the Survey operations reach the tracts in which it is practiced.

2. Copy of this Office No 183 F. of this day's date to the Govt. of India, with + reply on the subject of Kumri cultivation is I have the honor to be herewith forwarded.

+ to be obligingly returned

Secretary

June 22, 1871.

ई. 18ई.

№ 352 ई.

22-6-71

Tr. Mr. Adams 5th July — No. 680.

ई. 36.

No. 680 of 1871.

From,

Colonel W. C. ANDERSON,

Survey and Settlement Commissioner, Mysore.

To,

THE SECRETARY TO THE CHIEF COMMISSIONER,

for the Government of the Territories of His Highness

the Maharajah of Mysore.

Survey Commissioner's Office, Dharwar 5th July 1871.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No. 352 of the 22nd ultimo, I have the honor to offer the following remarks.

Koomree has special attractions for the class of people who resort to it, they will neglect all other kinds of cultivation even when freely available, and devote themselves to this alone. The reason is plain, the profits are far greater to the cultivator, and the expence is less than in the case of any other description of cultivation. No ploughing or cattle are requisite in any of the tillage preparations, nothing is required but an axe or billhook and a pair of arms expert in wielding them. The labor of a month in April and May in cutting and burning the forest and ten days or so in June to sow, with a similar period in October or November to reap, will provide the cultivator and his family with subsistence for the year, if he can retain for himself the fruits of his labors.

2. The destruction of wood is of course very great, the only question is whether it is always worth preserving and how far it can be preserved consistently with the attainment of other objects which it would not do to put entirely out of sight.

3. As a forest question pure and simple there is no advantage whatever in Koomree, the wood can hardly be turned to a worse purpose bad and comparatively worthless as it may be for timber purposes, and inaccessible for firewood and other minor uses, yet it has its use for climatic purposes, and it must be remembered that the denudation of a country in which the fall of rain is very heavy is the most certain way to cause sudden and dangerous floods in the rivers draining the denuded area; the rain fall rushes into them at once instead of being checked in its passage by the vegetation, again in the hot weather the supply of water in these streams will be very mischievously affected by the permanent denudation of the wooded tracts near their sources, and such a denudation does occur in country where Koomree cultivation has been persistently followed. The bare state of the hills in the Rutnaghery and parts of the Tannah Collectorates of the Bombay Presidency is a proof of this, the ground being bared and the trees almost entirely extirpated.

4. To suppose that any counteraction to malaria is caused by Koomree clearings interspersed in forest tracts is a pure delusion, and such an

idea can only have been advocated by persons who fancied that a clearing once made in such tracts always remains, and is a cleaner and more open space than virgin forest in the same locality. They can never have seen the state into which a Koomree clearing in the jungles in the Ghats passes in even two years after it has been cultivated. It must be remembered that Koomree is ordinarily cultivated for one or at most two years the second years crop being inferior, in very rare cases a very small return is obtained in the third year. In fact if fresh jungle could be procured to fell every year, the same land would hardly be used two years in succession. After cultivation the land is abandoned and is not recultivated till the lapse of at least eight years, if the supply of forest is abundant it will even be left untouched for twelve or fifteen years. Two years after cultivation in a Koomree situated in a forest tract the jungle has generally sprung up again, not to any height indeed, but in a dense tangled mass of wood undergrowth and creepers hardly pervious by man, beast or indeed air, and much more dense than ordinary virgin forest in the same locality. In the point of preventing malaria therefore there is certainly no advantage in Koomree excepting it is allowed to be so persistently cultivated as to extirpate the forest entirely.

5. It must farther be remembered that we hardly at present know what strain may be placed upon our existing forest resources, which it will require much care and economic management to increase or even to keep from decrease, while it is certain that the demand for wood must increase not only from the general progress of improvement in the country but from the extension of railway communication and the consequent demand for good timber for sleepers and for bad for firewood. Wood may be inaccessible now because it is not now worth while to devise systematic means on a large scale to float it down rivers, or bring it in other ways to market. But the great demand for sleepers and for fuel for engines may alter all these circumstances, and we should in my opinion be prepared for any contingencies which may arise, and nothing can be more certain than that we shall not be prepared if the supply of wood is materially reduced in the mean time.

6. Further it may be objected to Koomree cultivation that it is an idle and demoralizing mode of getting a livelihood. The people availing themselves of it have the most decided aversion to any other kind of harder work, they will readily act as beaters to shooting parties for very small, almost nominal pay, as that falls in with their own habits, but nothing short of an absence of other resource will induce them to work at making a road even for full fair wages. Feeling the want of a "Kumlee" (native blanket) they will move from the jungle into the rice Districts for a few days to help to reap, but having acquired a sufficient quantity of rice in payment to purchase the coveted article they will refuse to work any more and return to their jungles and idle life.

7. But we must to some extent take these people as we find them and not expect to change their nature at once, we may perhaps gradually wean them from their present habits by the tendency of the measures we may adopt, we certainly cannot drive them to the courses of the more civilized classes by prohibiting altogether the mode of cultivation to which they have hitherto looked for a livelihood. The only result of this would

the race of Koomree cutters is kept up and the future result will be that they will prey upon the forests of adjacent Governments.

17. It is therefore most desirable both to restrict the quantity every where, and to put such a high rate of assessment upon it as shall certainly not offer any premium on this kind of cultivation. I would not advocate a rate lower than Rs. 1-8-0 per acre on the area actually cultivated in any year for the first year, and Rs. 1-4-0 on the second year of cultivation, at this rate this cultivation will be sufficiently remunerative, but it will perhaps deter the Shanbogs or Koolkurnees and the money lenders from interesting themselves in it more than in any other kind of cultivation.

18. Without reference to the practice of cuitivation hitherto, Koomree should be regidly and entirely prohibited within 5 miles of any made road, of any track passable for carts, and of any river available for floating timber. In these situations the existing wood, or the chances of future supply are too valuable to allow the interests of the whole community to be sacrificed.

19. I have gone at some length into this subject and beyond the precise question addressed to me in your letter under reply, as it is a matter in which I take a very great interest, and have had more experience in dealing with for many years back than falls to the lot of most. I have now under reference an expression of desire on the part of the Bombay Revenue Officers for some united action of the Governments of the adjacent territories under different jurisdictions which all meet in the vicinity of the North Western point of Mysore; and the present appeared to me a favorable opportunity for bringing the subject forward.

Your obedient servant.

W. C. ANDERSON,

Survey and Settlement Commissioner Mysore.

Printed at the Revenue Survey Press Dharwar—1871.

Sl. 4 to 5 (20)

No. 121

From,

A. O. Hume Esqre. C.B.
Secretary to the Government of India
Department of Agriculture, Revenue
and Commerce.—

To,

The Chief Commissioner of Mysore

Simla the 9th August 1871.

Forests.

Sir,

I am directed to acknowledge the receipt of your letter No. 183 F. dated 22nd June last recommending that the reintroduction of Koomri cultivation into certain portions of the Nuggur Division of Mysore may be permitted on certain conditions; and in reply to state that while the Governor General in Council does not entirely agree with your proposals, His Excellency is willing to admit of their modification so far, that when the operations of the Revenue Survey are extended into the District in question, a certain portion of land in each village, not exceeding the total area under other cultivation, may be marked off for disposal to village laborers for the purpose of Koomri cultivation, and allotted in proportion

Map vide follow

proportion to the other cultivated land of each holder, in the same manner as a certain amount of land is allotted to each Wurgdar in Madras for this purpose. In both North and South Canara, Koomri cultivation is strictly limited and is gradually diminishing. If therefore the above arrangement is adopted in Mysore, and the Survey Officers mark off the tracts for Koomri in each village in concert with the Forest Officers His Excellency in Council believes that no injurious effects need be apprehended by the reintroduction of Koomri into the Province within the tract in question.—

81. S

Mare Vca
Signed A. O. Hume
Secy to the Govt of India

No. 458 F.

Memo

Copy of the above forwarded to the Superintendent of Nuggur for information and guidance with copies of the following correspondence.

Government of India No. 237 F. of the 17th May 1870.

Conservator's Nos 150 F. and 369 of the 14th March and 6th June 1871 respectively.—

Chief

Chief Commissioner's letter No. 183 F of the 22nd June 1871, to Government of India.—

By Order

Jas Johnson Major
Offg: Secy to the Chief Comm^r of Mysore P. W. Department

Bangalore
30th August 1871

To, The Superintendent
Nuggur Division

Ex^d
W. A.

[illegible] village in which it is proposed to establish a separate school will be kept up by the labourers whether Indian or other, engaged on the cattle station.

The school will be inspected annually with the Jungle Schools and the Dy. Supt will report the results in his report-book.

The school will be the Koomri cultivation are portions of the place or Chaugan

Cons. for the purpose [illegible]

4-9-71 [illegible]

[illegible] Dy. Supt. Shimoga.

Sent out the constitution of limits now allowed for Koomri cultivation and state that as the main argument used by the people to obtain the re-introduction of the Koomri system is that labourers will be absolutely ruined if it is necessary that the effects of this should be closely watched.

In order to do this a separate register of all Koomri lands will be kept [illegible]

1st Class

No. 272/73.

From

A. Geoghegan Esqr.
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India
Department of Agriculture
Revenue and Commerce.

To

The Secy. to the Govt. of Madras / Bombay
Revenue Department
Simla the 14 Septr. 1871.

(Forests) Sir

In continuation of the Memorandum from the Public Works Department No. 340/341 F. dated 8th July 1870. I am directed to forward for the information of His Excellency the Governor in Council the papers noted in the margin, relative

From Chief Comr. Mysore No. 183 F. dated 22d June 1871. and enclosures - - To Ditto No. 121 dated 9th August 1871. From Ditto No. 230 F dated 9th Augt. 1871. + enclosure	to Koomree Cultivation in Mysore. It is

hoped that in respect to the practice of Koomree uniformity of action may be arrived at

at by the several Governments interested therein along the Ghat Ranges of Western India.—

I have &c.

(Sd) A. Geoghegan
Under Secy. to the Govt. of India

No. 274

Copy forwarded to the Chief Commr. of Mysore, with reference to his letter No. 2307 dated 9th ultimo.

By order

Under Secy. to the Govt. of India

SECRETARIAT
SEP 25 1871
HOME DEPARTMENT

Recd. 25/9/71

Recd. 25/9/71

Copy to Chief Commr. Mysore

Copy to Director of Agriculture

Copy to Mr. Ashley

Copy to Mr. Ashley

25/9/71